

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, in the figures.

The Applicants want to thank Examiner Philippe Derakshani for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher Ward, during the personal interview conducted on August 30, 2005. The amendments set forth herein are believed to embody the proposed claim changes discussed and agreed upon during the interview. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the valve is configured such that only the dome or transverse wall moves upward during opening of the valve, which is not disclosed in the Ramsey et al. and Fioravanti et al. references. Independent Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the tubular skirt has a first portion attached to the wall, where the first portion has a thickness that is smaller than a thickness of a middle portion of a tubular portion of the tubular skirt, which is not disclosed in the Ramsey et al. and Fioravanti et al. references. Independent Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the valve is configured such that only the wall having flexible appendices moves upward when the valve moves from the closed orientation to the open orientation, which is not disclosed in the Ramsey et al. and Fioravanti et al. references.

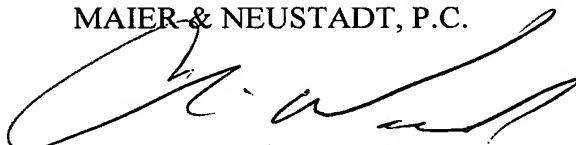
Thus, Claims 1, 8, and 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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